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PENNSYLVANIA  
DIVERSITY  
NETWORK

GLBT INFORMATION  
SINCE  
1998

# VALLEY GAY PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S  
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER  
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 11 NO. 10

DECEMBER 2008



METROPOLITAN  
COMMUNITY  
CHURCH

**MCC**

CHRISTMAS  
EVE  
WORSHIP  
SERVICES

7 PM CHRISTMAS EVE  
CANTATA

10 PM CHRISTMAS EVE  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

930 N 4TH ST.  
ALLENTOWN

## TAKEOVER LEHIGH VALLEY

HOSTS A  
FUNDRAISER FOR  
LV GAY MEN'S  
CHORUS

FRIDAY, DEC 12, 8PM  
AMERICAN HAIRLINES  
BROAD & MAIN STS.,  
BETHLEHEM - \$15

Complimentary wine, beer and food.  
This is a "whole community" event  
with beer, food and martinis  
provided by Pride GLV, The Woods  
Campground, LV GMC  
and Diamonz!

## READING PRIDE

CELEBRATION HOLIDAY PARTY  
MUSIC, WINE, & HORS  
D'OEUVRES - 50/ 50 RAFFLE

DECEMBER 7 4-6PM

ADRIENNE'S INN AT CENTRE PARK  
730 CENTRE STREET - READING, PA

Please RSVP: brian5673@aol.com  
Donation of \$10 per person benefits  
Reading Pride Celebration events

## KIDS RAINBOW FAMILIES CHRISTMAS PARTY

MCCLV & PDN'S RAINBOW FAMILIES  
HOST THE

ANNUAL KIDS' CHRISTMAS PARTY  
SAT. DEC. 6, 9AM - 11:30AM

METROPOLITAN COM CHURCH  
READ ABOUT IT ON PAGE 3

## FACT SNOWBALL

22TH ANNUAL  
SUNDAY, DEC 7

HOLIDAY INN  
ALLENTOWN

9TH & HAMILTON STS  
COCKTAILS 5:00 PM

SEATING 6:15 PM, DINNER 7:00 PM

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT  
DANCING, SILENT AUCTION, CASH BAR

TICKETS \$60.00 PER PERSON

BLACK TIE FORMAL ATTIRE OPTIONAL

RESERVATION OR QUESTIONS  
610-820-5519 or 610-730-9155

## PDN BINGO

Sunday, December 14th, 2008  
5pm-9pm

Rainbow Room Bingo Hall  
2413 Sunshine Road, Allentown  
\$20 in advance/\$25 at door

Hundreds of dollars in cash prizes!!  
Order advance tickets on-line

Limited Seating-Reserve now at:  
610-432-5449 / info@padiversity.org

Non-smoking event. Sandwiches & refreshments for sale.

Benefits The PA Diversity Network & Valley Gay Press  
Rainbow Families, The Greater Lehigh Valley GLBT  
Infoline and the PDN Resource.

## PDN BINGO DEC 14

PA Diversity Network Holiday Bingo -  
December 14, 5pm to 9pm at Rainbow Bingo  
Hall, 2413 Sunshine Rd., Allentown (near Lehigh  
St. & 309 behind Redner's). 100s of dollars in  
cash and other prizes!

Tickets: \$20 per person in advance, \$25 at the  
door. Purchase advance tickets on-line at  
www.padiversity.org. Your ticket gives you cards  
to play all night! Food and beverages available  
for sale. All proceeds benefit PDN. A  
nonsmoking event! Businesses & organizations:  
please support PDN by donating prizes. Contact  
PDN at info@padiversity.org or 610-432-5449.

## 200 ATTEND RALLY TO FIGHT H8

PA Diversity Network (Valley Gay Press), Metropolitan Community Church LV, and Muhlenberg College's GSA organized a "Fight the H8" rally against the California passage of Proposition 8 (that removed legal state rights from married same-sex couples), on November 16, at Hamilton and 7th Streets in Allentown. 200 people attended. There was extensive media coverage. Read more about it on pages 2,3,9,11 and see a huge photo album and video of speeches and TV coverage at [www.padiversity.org](http://www.padiversity.org).



BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.



## What's That About?



Readers write or email "What's That About?" editor Liz Bradbury with questions about GLBT issues.



Dear WTA, Is there a way we can know which businesses supported the passage of Proposition 8 and which groups fought against it? I don't want to be spending my holiday dollars in a business that helped to take my rights away. Signed, GLBTA Consumer

Dear Consumer, As a matter of fact, there is. The list at [www.antigayblacklist.com](http://www.antigayblacklist.com) not only tells the businesses, groups and individuals that gave \$1000 or more to the effort to pass the anti-gay rights amendment Proposition 8, but the site also lists the groups that fought the amendment. LB

## A LETTER FROM KINDALL GOBLE

Dear PDN,

We have lived in Allentown here for nearly 10 years and we love it.

It seems that Allentown has finally eschewed its Hess-era-nostalgia hangover. With Mayor Ed Palowski at the helm, Allentown's future looks to be bright, imaginative and prosperous.

Kudos especially to Liz Bradbury and Trish Sullivan - PDN; Steve Libby - Gay Matter magazine; Shawn Bausher - Pride GLV; Michael Avery, Aaron Renninger and Mike Henn - Take Over Lehigh Valley; and Peter Lewnes - 7th Street Alliance - to name just a few, for making it so exciting for the thousands of us in the GLBT community to live here.

Now, after 16 years of living together, my spouse (yes, spouse, as we are legally married in Canada and the U.K.) and I are forced to leave our home. We are caught in a weird, twilight zone, American version of apartheid or ethnic cleansing. You are gay so you must leave.

Using us and millions like us as the whipping boys and girls of division politics, many states have been sent into a frenzy of retrograde civil rights legislation, and it's not over. Thus when Phil's visa expired October 28th he had to leave the country if we have any hope of legally returning to live here. On November 18th, I follow him to the U.K. (where I have full spousal rights and responsibilities).

We own a house here. We have a circle of amazing friends here. My family is here.

We have no choice.

This is not an immigration issue, it is a political and civil rights issue. If one of us was a woman, a green card and even citizenship would already be a fact.

Yours truly, Kindall Goble

**TIME TO PAY YOUR 2009 PA DIVERSITY NETWORK DUES TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE VGP AND SUPPORT PDN PROGRAMS**

## "A LITTLE BIT OF HEALING"

by Phil Healing



### THE TRANS ATLANTIC TRANSITION I AM THERE AND HE'S HERE

After realizing I was being forced out of the US due to the fact that a) my visa was about to expire and b) our civil partnership in the UK and our legal marriage in Canada didn't count for shit, I left Newark on an Air India flight on 28th October. It was such an odd feeling; looking forward, looking back. The comfort of knowing that my husband, partner; where's our word? - my man Kindall would be following me in three weeks' time; but also knowing how much I would miss him. Our whole life in the US. People were incredibly supportive of the massive change we were about to embark upon. Conversely, some would say, "Oh, that'll be so exciting, you'll love it in England" da da da. Loving it isn't an issue; I'm just so weary of telling everyone why we didn't want to leave/weren't allowed to stay.

Surprisingly, quite a few people have said, after all the commiserating comments, "Is Kindall going with you?" Huh? Oh, er, no, we decided that after 15 years together he's going to stay in the US. Makes me mad - of course he's going with me!!! If a straight couple were in this situation, which of course is impossible, the question would never even be asked.

We're currently in the process of obtaining a UK entry clearance visa that will allow him to live and work in the UK for two years as a result of our UK civil union. The UK embassy seemingly wants my first born - both our passports; proof of rental lease; proof of my UK job and salary; proof of savings; proof of our partnership; proof we've lived together as a couple for at least two years; proof that I like fruit cake????

I'm staying with two of our dear friends who are making the transition as painless as possible. I have found us a beautiful house for a song; the house market is dead here due to, oh, everything. Greed is usually the culprit and this is no exception. The dollar is, at the time of writing, 1.48 to the pound, down from 2 to the pound in January. Added to the pain, sending money to the US to pay our mortgage is going to be way more expensive than it was 9 months ago. Mr. Obama has a lot to do; I don't foresee immigration equality being high on the list. In the meantime, I'm trawling flea markets and 'car boot' sales in order to create a material life of sorts before my hero flies in at the end of the month. I think it'll be a close and quiet Christmas, this year.

### "A LITTLE BIT OF HEALING" ALTERNATES MONTHLY WITH "SCOTTY IN THE CITY"

### PRIDE GLV MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2009

Renew your Pride GLV membership for 2009! Membership forms and information are available in the 2008-09 Pride Guide and online at [www.prideglv.org](http://www.prideglv.org). Please send payments to: Pride GLV 1101 W. Hamilton St., Allentown, PA 18101.

## MUHLENBERG COLLEGE GSA CO-CHAIR ADRIAN SHANKER MAKES FINAL REPORT OF GSA WORK FOR PAST THREE YEARS.

Some highlights include: amending the College's anti-discrimination statement to include Gender Identity, creating Trans-accessible housing options for first-year students, creating the LGBT Coordinator position, forming partnerships with the Career Center and the Trexler Library, the creation of Rainbow Space in the Life Sports Center, becoming a part of Multicultural Life, hosting former Senator and Presidential Candidate Mike Gravel, hosting Candace Gingrich, Kate Bornstein, Martin Manalansan, and more! Shanker, as well as GSA Vice President, Alex Denning and GSA Treasurer, Kait Merritt have now completed their final term on the GSA board.



## HOT NEWS

## HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS: every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQI youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Contact Pete Pellegrino [havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com](mailto:havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com) or visit Haven's Web page at [www.uucvpa.org/haven](http://www.uucvpa.org/haven).

## GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level.

The winter schedule is in effect.

**Bowling:** the 2nd Friday of the month, at 8:45pm at the Playdome, 15th St. & Summer Ave., Allentown. **Pinochle:** the 2nd Saturday of the month, at 7:00pm at the Moose Lounge, 28 North 10th Street, Allentown. **Racquetball:** every Thursday and Saturday, at 7:00pm at the 24/7 Fitness Club, Allentown.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website.

GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website. Email: [Info@gloss.org](mailto:Info@gloss.org). Website: [www.gloss.org](http://www.gloss.org).

## RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm 2nd flr, Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

## LV BEARS

Lehigh Valley Bears social group meets at the Stonewall, 28 N 10th St. in Allentown, at 8 pm on the first Saturday of every month. Meet at the end of the bar under the moosehead. Bears and bear admirers, are welcome. Contact Ira Fine at: [iramfine@aol.com](mailto:iramfine@aol.com) or 610-767-7363 for information. Lehigh Valley Bears have a yahoo group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lvbears>. See a Bears definition at PDN's web site.

## KIDS' CHRISTMAS PARTY DEC 6TH

Metropolitan Community Church LV and PA Diversity Network's Rainbow Families are hosting the annual Children's Christmas Party on Saturday, December 6 from 9:00AM to 11:30AM at the Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley, 930 North 4th Street, Allentown.

Crafts, snacks, story-time, and a visit from Santa are included.

Pre-registration is required. Please include the number of children coming. There is no registration fee, but donations are gratefully accepted. At least one adult must be present for each family at the party. Contact Carol Stevens at [castidings@aol.com](mailto:castidings@aol.com) for preregistration and questions. (Directions to MCCLV are easily accessed at [www.mcclv.org](http://www.mcclv.org).)

## DIGNITY CHAPTER FOR GLBT CATHOLICS

Dignity of the Lehigh Valley gathers for worship and fellowship at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1900 E. Pennsylvania Avenue, Allentown, PA, the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 6:00 PM. GLBT Catholics and friends are welcome. Those who desire to share in Eucharist are welcome to receive the Sacraments of the Church. Please contact [dignitylehighvalley@yahoo.com](mailto:dignitylehighvalley@yahoo.com) or visit the blog at: [www.DignityLHV.blogspot.com](http://www.DignityLHV.blogspot.com).

## PDN LIST OF 2008 EVENTS:

**December 14, 2008 -- PDN Bingo**  
**December 2008 -- Rainbow Families Christmas Party with MCCLV**

## GLOSS BOWLING

GLOSS Bowling meets on the second Friday of the month. Ira Fine, GLOSS Bowling coordinator, must contact the bowling alley to reserve the correct number of lanes. If you are interested, please contact Ira at: [iramfine@aol.com](mailto:iramfine@aol.com), home phone: 610-767-7363 cell phone: 610-462-4786. Bowlers meet near the snack bar around 8:45 pm, and usually start to bowl around 9:00 pm, which is when the league bowlers are finished. New people are welcome and encouraged to attend. There is no competition, so you do not have to be a good bowler. GLOSS is there for fun and camaraderie with other GLBTA people.

## LEHIGH VALLEY RALLY AGAINST PROP 8

PA Diversity Network (Valley Gay Press), Metropolitan Community Church LV, and Muhlenberg College's GSA organized a "Fight the H8" rally against the California passage of Proposition 8 (that removed legal state rights from married same-sex couples in California), on November 16, at Hamilton and 7th Streets in Allentown.

200 people attended, there was extensive media coverage, and a coffee hour after the event hosted by MCCLV was attended by over 100 rally participants. The PDN Photo Project was (and still is) on view at MCC.

Co-sponsors of the event included: Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, PA Democratic Party LGBT Caucus, Lehigh Valley Rainbow Families, Interweave of UUCLV, Eastern Pennsylvania PFLAG, Panzee Press Magazine, Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, Gentlemen of Berks and Beyond, Northampton Community College- Gay/ Lesbian/ Bisexual-Student Union, Reading Pride Celebration, LEPOCO, I-Lead, Gay-Straight alliance of Keystone College, Diamondz, Keystone Progress

Speakers included: Allentown City Council President, Mike D'Amore, Liz Bradbury, PA Diversity Network, Rev. Beth Goudy, MCCLV, Brian Jones, MCCLV, Adrian Shanker, Muhlenberg GSA, Rob Hopkins, PA Democratic Party LGBT Caucus and Greater Lehigh Valley Pride, Dave Moyer, RN. Music performances by Neighbor Poem (Featuring Hugh Trimble), and B.A.S.I.C. (MCC Choir). A community American Sign Language interpreter covered the event.

Read the text of Adrian Shanker's speech on page 9 and read part of Liz Bradbury's speech on page 11. See a huge photo album and links to video and news coverage of the rally at [www.padiversity.org](http://www.padiversity.org).

## DIY CELEBRATION

WDIY 88.1 FM TO CELEBRATE MUSIC OF JOHNNY CASH; COINCIDES WITH RELEASE OF NEW FOLSOM PRISON CD SET

WDIY 88.1, Lehigh Valley Community Public Radio, has announced it will present a "Sun Celebration," honoring the music of the late Johnny Cash and other Sun Records' artists during the week of Dec. 8-Dec. 13.



## GOBAB: GENTLEMEN OF BERKS & BEYOND

Social activities, dinners, movies, hiking, biking, fun times and get together with friends who feel the same way that you do about sharing the brotherhood of life.

Gentlemen of Berks and Beyond <http://www.myspace.com/gobab> -- MEN UNITED IN BROTHERHOOD & STRENGTH "all men are equal in voice and soul" GOBAB is a non-profit organization [http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/gentlemen\\_of\\_berks](http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/gentlemen_of_berks) PO box 13592, Reading, PA 19612, 610-670-4483, GOBAB IS NOW ON FACEBOOK.

GOBAB plans to see the Harvey Milk movie: "Milk" in December. Check on-line for updates.

## BRADBURY ON NPR RADIO PANEL ABOUT H8

PDN's E.D. Liz Bradbury was invited to face anti-gay PA Family Assoc's Michael Geer on NPR radio in Harrisburg in Nov. All the callers were pro! Hear the show through a link at [www.padiversity.org](http://www.padiversity.org).

## LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

Spectrum is open to LGBTQ teens and their allies ages 14-18. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on the second floor of Planned Parenthood Reading's media center. Spectrum seeks adult volunteers to assist with the program. Criminal background checks, training and references are required. If you'd like to volunteer, contact sexuality educator and manager of Spectrum, Amber Brown at 610-376-0137.

## GAY & LESBIAN EPISCOPALIANS & FRIENDS

GLEF meets regularly at Christ Episcopal Church at 435 Court Street, Reading, PA. For info contact Dwayne Messenger through [www.berksglef.org](http://www.berksglef.org).

## READING PFLAG

Meets at 6:30pm on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month, September through May at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading & Berks County, 416 Franklin St. Reading. For information or to confirm scheduled meetings call: 610.858.9278. PFLAG information: call Help Line: 610-967-5219, [www.eastern-pa-pflag.org](http://www.eastern-pa-pflag.org) or e-mail: [info@eastern-pa-pflag.org](mailto:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org).

## PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, [www.eastern-pa-pflag.org](http://www.eastern-pa-pflag.org). e-mail: [info@eastern-pa-pflag.org](mailto:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org). Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd Wed., New Location see web site. 570-620-1234. Pottsville - 3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail [pflagpottsville@hotmail.com](mailto:pflagpottsville@hotmail.com).

Meeting Dates: Allentown: Dec. 2 Monroe: December 5 Reading: No meeting in Dec.

## BERKS GLBT RADIO SHOW

PDN Exec. Director Liz Bradbury was a guest on Jason Lincoln's GLBT radio show "Making Waves," on October 7. Jason's show is broadcast from Kutztown University every Tuesday afternoon from 4pm to 6pm on Kutztown University Radio (KUR) at 88.3 FM, throughout town at 1670 AM, throughout eastern Berks County at Service Electric Cable channel 24 or Hometown Utilicom channel 41, and streaming on-line at <http://kur.kutztown.edu/>

Bradbury is now a regular call-in guest of the show on the first Tuesday of the month, when she let's listeners know about events happening in the

## GLBT SUPPORT GROUP BERKS COUNTY

LGBTQ Support Group at Sanctuary Counseling in Douglassville. Join this group for an affirming, confidential experience of community and support! Meets the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30PM. Services are free for these groups. Nominal donations for materials/refreshments are appreciated. Sanctuary Counseling provides affirming counseling for the LGBTQ community, and is conveniently located for clients in northern Chester, southeastern Berks, and western Montgomery counties and the Route 422 corridor. Please pre-register. 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County. 610-385-3155 [www.sanctuarycounseling.com](http://www.sanctuarycounseling.com) VGP Drop-Off spot.

## FIGHT THE H8 RALLY IN HARRISBURG

A "Fight the H8" rally against Proposition 8 took place in Harrisburg on November 23rd, organized by Panzee Press leader Bolton Winpenny. 300 people attended. Speakers included Dan Miller, openly gay member of Harrisburg City Council. For a full report on this event see Panzee Magazine.



area that are of interest to the GLBTA community. In November, she spoke of the Rally Against H8 that was set for Nov. 16th. Many Kutztown students and Berks residents attended the rally. Contact Jason to find out about being a guest on his show. (see page 5)

## SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Grateful thanks to Nicole for this swell opportunity! To see more Sylvia cartoons check the Sylvia website: [www.nicolehollander.com](http://www.nicolehollander.com).

Believe it or not, the woman who worries is happy to remove an item from her list of anxieties... Happy to see any bright spot in a bleak world!

the proud producer of the original indomitable pink flamingo folded in 2006. I was inconsolable until April when a New York firm...



stepped in to save the day... they'll be in production by the end of summer. I've ordered 12 gross, and I've begun sewing blazers and tiny backpacks... Honey, should we buy the house next door so the flamingos have more room?

9-14



# \$OOZ VIEWS

By Sue Sneeringer

## THE FIRST TO GO

When Ronald Reagan became president, one of his goals was to abolish the National Endowment for the Arts. And, though he didn't succeed he did much to create a climate whereby Donald Wildmon could viciously attack the work of Robert Mapplethorpe, a recipient of NEA monies, and put tremendous pressure on the Congress to cut funding across the board for art and artists. As if Mapplethorpe's erotic (and more to the point HOMOerotic) photography wasn't enough reason to run the NEA folks out of D.C. on an Amtrak train, Andres Serrano had the audacity to put a crucifix in a vat of urine, call it "Piss Christ" AND art, all while he was an NEA recipient, as well. I guess the subtlety of that work escaped the evangelicals. I've always believed it quite brilliant in its simplicity myself. No matter how one viewed it, by the 1990's the NEA had been brought to its knees.

That was fine for many, even some who weren't on a mission to get the government out of every aspect of our lives (EXCEPT our bedrooms and, of course, our wombs). Never mind that the furor over Mapplethorpe and Serrano eclipsed the great work the NEA did in bringing music and dance and theatre and other works of arts into the lives of people who might otherwise never experience them and thus be commensurately enriched. No. The arts were only meant for people who lived in the city. Screw small towns. Screw the rural folks. Screw all the other underfunded platforms for artistic expression which would be even more financially strapped by gutting the NEA budget.

Another byproduct of this were budgets cut for arts education. Music and drama were considered "extras" in public school curricula. Less government in this instance became code yet again for, "you need this but we'll convince you that you don't and thus you'll have to pay for it yourself...out of that TAX CUT we just gave you..." Just another brick in the "dumbing down of America" wall.

Perhaps with the election of Barack Obama the arts will turn a new corner and be valued again. We can only hope. Surely a man who calls for us to become the UNITED States again will recognize the power of the arts to bring people from all manner of diverse experience together. I doubt it will be a priority. But maybe we'll get lucky and one of those beautiful Obama girls will fall in love with ballet or the oboe or poetry or painting and that will remind their Dad of what the arts can do. As family therapist Sarakay Smullens said recently, "I've never seen a psychiatric diagnosis that explained my clients as well as a good movie or play." With the state of things being what they are, shouldn't we be sharpening ALL the tools in the box?

On November 15th we lost our furry family member and very handsome canine, Scout. He died at home, over a hundred in dog years, with his best pal Marilyn by his side. If there was ever a girl and her dog, these two were something to behold. Scout ADORED Marilyn and there were even occasions when I was pretty sure he liked me (although it did take him awhile to forgive the fact that I got to sleep in the bed with her and he didn't...generous dollops of peanut butter helped!). Rest in peace, buddy. We miss you!!

## RADIO SHOW GUESTS

Jason Lincoln of Kutztown University Radio welcomes GLBT community leaders as guests on the show. Even those not free during scheduled broadcasts, can tape a show at an earlier time. If you are interested in appearing on "Making Wavers," contact Jason at [jasonlincoln@live.com](mailto:jasonlincoln@live.com).

## GLORA

GLORA - The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown - is a social GLBT group. For details about events, email [GLORA@dejazzd.com](mailto:GLORA@dejazzd.com) GLORA is a non-profit, social group for men and women, singles or couples. Everyone welcome!

### The organizers of the GLORA events announce:

GREETING GLORA friends; as we approach the holiday season, we're hoping that a lot of our members are ready, willing and able to participate in some of our upcoming events.

#### Scheduled events:

Saturday December 6th- We're going to go to the Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus Christmas Concert. The concert starts at 8:00 pm on Chestnut St. There are restaurants in the area if people would like to eat first. Tickets start at \$20 and we will hopefully be able to buy them at the door, we'll call after people RSVP to Nels at 610-754-7144. Meet by 4:30 to car pool.

Sunday December 7th- GLORA anniversary party at the Kutztown Tavern on Main St. Lets get together at 6:00 pm for cocktails and appetizers and eat at 7:00pm. We'll order from the regular menu. Call Nels by Friday to RSVP so we know how many people to expect. 610 754 7144

Sunday December 14th- Center Park historic district is having their Christmas House tour. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in Center Park on Center ave. Tour is from 1:00 to 6:00

Wednesday December 31st Dave and Danny have offered to host a New Years Eve Party at their house in Allentown at 9:00 pm. Bring a dish to share and a beverage of your choice. Please contact GLORA to RSVP and come prepared to have FUN!!!

## TOUCHSTONE EVENTS

### CHRISTMAS CITY FOLLIES IX

Created and performed by the Touchstone Ensemble and Apprentices

Music, wit, and holiday hijinks all wrapped in a vaudevilian package that will serenade your imagination and bake your Christmas cookies. A Touchstone classic and Lehigh Valley tradition. Get your tickets early! Preview Dec. 3rd at 8pm - Pay What You Will. Dec. 4th - 21st: Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm - \$20 / \$18 (Students and Seniors). Thursdays at 8pm - Pay What You Will (at the door)

Tickets available by calling 610-867-1689 during business hours, through [www.touchstone.org](http://www.touchstone.org) or [www.lvartsboxoffice.org](http://www.lvartsboxoffice.org), or at the door. Doors open one hour before performances. At Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. 4th Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015

### "TOTALLY SCROOGED!" AT TOUCHSTONE

The Holiday Event Of The Season, Starring Comic Actor Pickles Reese. Two special holiday performances to benefit the Second Harvest Foodbank of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania. "TOTALLY SCROOGED!" A saucy solo send up of A Christmas Carol, starring comic actor PICKLES REESE, at: Touchstone Theatre 321 E. 4th Street, Bethlehem

Touchstone Theatre. December 9 and 10 at 7pm.

Admission by suggested donation \$15.00 per person.



# 6 CALENDAR

**Am Haskalah**, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, <http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa>, 610-435-3775

**ACCO-A** Chorus Celebrating Women,

**AIDS WALK**-see **FACT**

**BGMSG** - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events [berksgmsg@aol.com](mailto:berksgmsg@aol.com)

**CIVIC and 19th St.** Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <[civictheater.com](mailto:civictheater.com)>

**CUUPS** --at the UUCLV. [uuclv\\_cuups@yahoo.com](mailto:uuclv_cuups@yahoo.com)

**DIGNITY** - "GLBT-friendly ministry for Catholics and their friends" - meets at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1900 E. Pennsylvania Avenue, Allentown 2nd and 4th Sundays at 6:00 pm. [DignityLHV.blogspot.com](http://DignityLHV.blogspot.com) [Dignitylehighvalley@yahoo.com](mailto:Dignitylehighvalley@yahoo.com)

**Enigma Players** -- [qacres@prolog.net](mailto:qacres@prolog.net)  
**FACT** - Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

**Gay Matter Magazine** --

**GLEE** at Air Products

**GLEF** - Gay and Lesbian Episcopalians in Berks County. Christ Episcopal Church, in Reading, 610-374-8269, [emailinfo@berksglef.org](mailto:emailinfo@berksglef.org).

**GLORA** - Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown [www.glora.1colony.com](http://www.glora.1colony.com), [glora@dejazzed.com](mailto:glora@dejazzed.com)

**GLOSS** - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, [www.gloss.org](http://www.gloss.org) [Info@gloss.org](mailto:Info@gloss.org)

**GLOW** - at PPL

**GOBAB** - Gentlemen of Berks and Beyond [http://www.myspace.com/\\_gobab](http://www.myspace.com/_gobab) [http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/gentlemen\\_of\\_berks](http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/gentlemen_of_berks) PO box 13592, Reading, PA 19612, 610-670-4483.

**HAVEN** GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: [havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com](mailto:havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com)

**Integrity** - Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 [gamba.guy@verizon.net](mailto:gamba.guy@verizon.net)

**Infoline** - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 [info@padiversity.org](mailto:info@padiversity.org)

**INTERWEAVE** -- GLBTAI group at the UUCLV. 3rd Sundays.. [Interweave\\_UUCLV@yahoo.com](mailto:Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo.com)

**Kutztown Univ GLBT Radio** show "Making Waves," w/ Jason Lincoln Tuesdays 4pm -6pm in town: 88.3 FM, 1670 AM. In Eastern Berks: Serv Elec Cable 24 or Hometown Utilicom: 41.

Streaming on-line everywhere at <http://kur.kutztown.edu>

**LVGMC** - Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: [info@lvmgc.org](mailto:info@lvmgc.org), <[www.lvmgc.org](http://www.lvmgc.org)> 610-366-3320, rehearsals: Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

**Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition** 610-610-997-0976, [humanrights4all@aol.com](mailto:humanrights4all@aol.com), 610-814-0530 [JamesHalleman@aol.com](mailto:JamesHalleman@aol.com)

**LV Transmen** - 610-814-0530 [JamesHalleman@aol.com](mailto:JamesHalleman@aol.com)

**MCCLV** - Metropolitan Community Church, Lehigh Valley, 930 N 4th St., Allentown Services: 10:30 am [info@mcclv.org](mailto:info@mcclv.org) <http://www.mcclv.org> 610-709-8800

**Muhlenberg GSA** Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

**NCC** - Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 610-767-0296

**19th St & Civic Theatre** - 610.432.8943

**Out There** - Students at Cedar Crest College

**PA-Diversity Network** - 610-432-5449 [www.padiversity.org](http://www.padiversity.org) PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

## DECEMBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 RAA SC	2 LV PFLAG Kutztown GLBT Radio	3 HAVEN SPECTRUM Touchstone	4	5	BEARS GROSS Rainbow Christmas Party
FACT Snow Ball Reading Pride	RAA WDIY	9 LVGMC Kutztown GLBT Radio	10 HAVEN SPECTRUM Touchstone	11 GLOSS RAA WDIY	12 WDIY GMC Fundraise	13 WDIY GROSS Bowling WDIY REN DIG GLOSS
14 MCC PDN Bingo	15 RAA SC	16 LVGMC Kutztown GLBT Radio	17 M PFLAG SPECTRUM HAVEN	18 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG	19 Touchstone	20 WDIY GLOSS
21 WDIY GLOSS UUCLV	22 RAA	23 LVGMC Kutztown GLBT Radio	24 MCC HAVEN SPECTRUM	25 GLOSS RAA	26	27 DIG GLOSS WDIY
28 GLOSS MCC UUCLV WDIY	29 RAA	30 LVGMC Kutztown GLBT Radio	31 SPECTRUM HAVEN			

## JANUARY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 HAVEN SPECTRUM	2 RAA GLOSS	3	4 WDIY GLOSS BEARS
MCC GROSS UUCLV WDIY	6 RAA SC	7 LVGMC Kutztown GLBT Radio	8 SPECTRUM HAVEN	9 RAA GLOSS	10 GLOSS Bowling	11 WDIY GROSS REN DIG
12 MCC GLORA	13 RAA	14 Kutztown GLBT Radio R PFLAG LVGMC	15 HAVEN SPECTRUM	16 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG	17	18 WDIY GLOSS
19 GLOSS MCC WDIY UUCLV	20 RAA SC	21 Kutztown GLBT Radio LVGMC	22 HAVEN SPECTRUM	23 GLOSS RAA	24	25 WDIY DIGNITY GLOSS
26 WDIY UUCLV GROSS CUUPS MCC	27 RAA	28 Kutztown GLBT Radio LVGMC	29 HAVEN SPECTRUM	30 RAA GLOSS	31	

## FEBRUARY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 GLOSS UUCLV MCC	2 SC RAA	3 Kutztown GLBT Radio LV PFLAG LVGMC	4 HAVEN SPECTRUM	5 RAA GLOSS	6	7 WDIY GLOSS
8 GLOSS UUCLV MCC	9 RAA	10 LVGMC Kutztown GLBT Radio	11 HAVEN SPECTRUM	12 GLOSS RAA	13 GLOSS Bowling	14 GLOSS WDIY REN DIG
15 WDIY GROSS MCC UUCLV WDIY	16 RAA SC	17 LVGMC Kutztown GLBT Radio	18 HAVEN 19th St SPECTRUM	19 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	20	21 WDIY GROSS
22 MCC GROSS UUCLV	23 RAA	24 LVGMC Kutztown GLBT Radio	25 HAVEN SPECTRUM	26 RAA GLOSS	27	28 DIG WDIY GLOSS



**PFLAG** - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 [www.eastern-pa-pflag.org](http://www.eastern-pa-pflag.org)

**Pride** - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: [info@prideglv.org](mailto:info@prideglv.org), [www.prideglv.org](http://www.prideglv.org)

**Progressive Students Alliance** - [www.lehigh.edu/~inpstua/vpsa/whatsa.htm](http://www.lehigh.edu/~inpstua/vpsa/whatsa.htm)

**Quakers** - LV Friends Meeting - Rt 512 N of Rte 22 Bethlehem, Worship 9:30am. 610-691-3411.

**RAA** - Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator - 1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

**Rainbow Families** - [donniearucas@msn.com](mailto:donniearucas@msn.com)  
**Ren** - Renaissance Transgender Assoc., Meets at MCCLV [renlv.org](http://renlv.org)

**Reading P-FLAG** 610-967-5219

**Reading Pride** - Festival in Reading [www.readingpridecelebration.org](http://www.readingpridecelebration.org)

**SC Sanctuary Counseling** G.B.T Support Group 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County 610-385-3155 [www.sanctuarycounseling.com](http://www.sanctuarycounseling.com)

**Safe Space** - At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973

**Spectrum** -- LGBTQA Teen Group, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading PA 610-376-0137

**UULV** - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

**VGP** - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, [VGP@padiversity.org](mailto:VGP@padiversity.org) VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 [www.padiversity.org](http://www.padiversity.org)

**Wachovia-GALEA** - Gay and Lesbian Employee Association, Contact [GALEA@Wachovia.com](mailto:GALEA@Wachovia.com)

**SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS SANCTUARY COUNSELING - 1ST & 3RD MONDAY**

**LYGMC REHEARSALS - TUES LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAY**

**READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES ALLENTOWN PFLAG - 1ST TUES**

**K-TWN GLBT RADIO - TUES LV HAVEN - WEDS**

**READING SPECTRUM - WEDS MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS**

**JAN, MAR, JUN, SEPT, DEC ONLY POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS**

**MCCLV 20-30'S - LAST THURS MCCLV KIDS MOVIE - THURS**

**GLOSS RAC-BALL-THURS & SAT GLOSS BOWLING - 2ND FRI**

**MCCLV POTLUCK - LAST SUN MCCLV WEIGHT LOSS - SUNS**

**LV BEARS - 1ST SAT GLOSS PINOCHLE - 2ND SAT**

**RENAISSANCE - 2ND SAT INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAY**

**DIGNITY - 2ND & 4TH SUN**

**DEC 3 - TOUCHSTONE**

**DEC 6 - RAINBOW FAMILIES**

**DEC 6 - GLORA**

**DEC 7 - FACT SNOWBALL**

**DEC 7 - READING PRIDE**

**DEC 7 - GLORA**

**DEC 9-10 - TOUCHSTONE**

**DEC 8-13 - WDIY**

**DEC 12 - LYGMC**

**DEC 14 - PDN BINGO**

**DEC 14 - GLORA**

**DEC 24 - MCCLV**

**DEC 31 - GLORA**

**TO LEARN HOW TO LIST YOUR ORG'S EVENT: [INFO@PADIVERSITY.ORG](mailto:INFO@PADIVERSITY.ORG)**

## MCCLV EVENTS

**MCC OFFERS SPANISH CLASSES**  
Starting in January 2009, Maricel Concepcion and Saadia Negrón will be offering free Spanish classes at MCCLV. Stay tuned for more details. You can get more information about the classes by contacting [Maricelateunuchos@mcclv.org](mailto:Maricelateunuchos@mcclv.org).



**PDN PHOTO PROJECT AT MCC VIEWED BY RALLY PARTICIPANTS**

## MCC'S TRICKY TRAY RESULTS

MCCLV's Tricky Tray Coordinating Committee met Monday, November 24 to decide how to allocate funds from this year's event. Thanks again to all who helped with MCCLV's 2008 Tricky Tray. The funds will be distributed as follows:

- \* MCCLV Building Fund - approximately \$4,000
- \* MCCLV General Fund - approximately \$2,500
- \* UFMCC denominational tithe
- \* HAVEN GLBTQI Youth Group at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the LV - \$100 donation
- \* Silent Witnesses - \$150 donation
- \* Grace Episcopal Church Food Pantry - \$250 donation
- \* 6th Street Shelter - \$150 donation
- \* Washington Elementary School (9th and Greenleaf in Allentown) - Rainbow Scholarship

## DON'T MISS PA DIVERSITY BINGO ON DECEMBER 14 AT RAINBOW BINGO HALL IN ALLENTOWN

**\* BUSINESSES PLEASE DONATE PRIZES \***



## RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

### THE HOLIDAYS

This month I'll leave all the political opinions (Yay, Obama!) to my brother and sister VGP columnists because I want to turn you on to some great treats for yourself or for that someone special on your holiday shopping list.

First up: Surprise a friend and treat them to the 2nd Annual LV TakeOver Holiday Party to benefit The LV Gay Men's Chorus at American Hairlines in Bethlehem. \$15 cover includes The Woods Campground Martini Bar, Music by DJ Eric and lots of great food. Friday Dec 12 8pm-?

Next up: Lots of great movies to recommend. Zeke Zelker's In Search Of... in which Gary, myself and lots of LV locals have bit parts. It's currently in local theatres and on DVD - \$19.99. Also in theaters: Role Models (A), Quantum of Solace (B+), Twilight (B), Rachel at the Wedding (B+) and HIGH hopes for Gus van Sant's Milk with Sean Penn, James Franco, and Emile Hirsh as well as Meryl Streep & Phillip Seymour Hoffman in Doubt and Anne Hathaway & Kate Hudson in Bride Wars (we've laughed more at that preview than some full length "comedies"). On DVD do not miss Young at Heart. You will laugh, cry and call your grandparents more often. Tropic Thunder, Kung Fu Panda, The Dark Knight are also worth the time and rental fee. Speaking of the economy, if you want to save a few bucks on your movie rental, check out Red Box at Giant, Wegman's and other (usually supermarkets) stores. Rent the DVD for \$1/night and you can return it at any Red Box anywhere!

Thirdly: Music. Wow! With new discs by Guns & Roses, The Killers, Beyonce, Britney, AC/DC, Brad Paisley, Eminem, 50 Cent, David Cook and the usual onslaught of holiday cds you have a wide range to choose from. Of course, a gift card to the i-tunes store is probably best so that special someone can listen to whatever they want.

And, what if your bf or gf or both (hi, bi's) are impossible to shop for. How about a weekend get-away that includes a candlelit dinner and walk in the fresh snow or a gift certificate to e-bay so they can find their Partridge Family lunch box or autographed Joan Crawford pic? I know the latter might sound less romantic but to be completely honest nothing gets me sporting wood quicker than searching for a toy in that treasure chest of childhood memories.

Remember to frequent our own LV stores when possible. Also if possible donate money or time to a non-profit organization/charity. They'll love you for it and you'll love yourself. Happiest of Holidays to you and yours, Steve





# PLANET Parenthood

donniearlucas@msn.com

by Earl and Donnie Snyder

8

## Ask a "Family" Lawyer

By Attorney Kate Lynn

### 2008 CASES OF INTEREST - EMPLOYMENT

Last month the 7th Circuit rejected an AIDS discrimination claim in the Wisconsin case of *EEOC v. Lee's Lo J Cabin*. The employer refused to hire plaintiff for a wait staff position because she was HIV positive, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) filed a lawsuit against the employer. After the defendant's attorneys filed summary judgment motions (asking for a judgment for the defendant on the pleadings alone without benefit of trial), the EEOC then claimed that the discrimination was based on the fact that plaintiff had AIDS. Without deciding whether HIV and AIDS are synonymous for all purposes under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the appellate court found that the two were not synonymous for the specific purpose of choosing whether to entertain the Commission's change of position in their factual claim; the appellate court ultimately affirmed the lower court's dismissal of the discrimination claim. The ADA prohibits employment discrimination "against a qualified individual with a disability because of the disability."

Also in October, the 2nd Circuit addressed Title VII in *Kiley vs. ASPCA*, and found that sexual orientation discrimination is not actionable. Title VII is a federal law that prohibits workplace discrimination. It covers all private employers, state and local governments, and educational organizations that employ at least 15 individuals. The door was left open as to a possible cause of action for sexual stereotyping, however. Plaintiff was suspended after the ASPCA concluded she sexually harassed her supervisor. She was reinstated at a different location, and thereafter she filed a complaint alleging discrimination and retaliation. To prevail under Title VII, one must show that she is a member of a protected class, competent to perform her job, an adverse employment action was taken, and that the surrounding circumstances support an inference of discrimination. Protected classes include race, color, religion, sex and national orientation. Sexual orientation is not included.

In the District of Columbia, a male-to-female transgendered job applicant was denied a position at the Library of Congress unlawfully pursuant to *Schroer v. Billington*, a case reported in September. In *Schroer*, the court recognized a Title VII claim of discrimination based on transsexuality. The Library's refusal to hire was egregious and based purely on sex; the Library alleged that it had legitimate concerns based on whether plaintiff could obtain a security clearance, the possibility that her transition would "distract her from the job," and her trustworthiness in general. The case will probably be appealed by the Library.

Finally, pursuant to the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's annual index of corporate equality, businesses continued to improve their ratings based upon their treatment of LGBT employees. The Foundation's business ratings illustrate that the number of employers who achieved a perfect rating increased by one-third over 2007 statistics. This means 9 million full-time employees employed by those businesses are protected from employment discrimination based on gender identity or expression and sexual orientation due to employment policies at those workplaces.

Kate Lynn is a solo practitioner whose primary office is located in Allentown. Kate can be reached at (610) 435-7770 or on her website at [www.katelynnlaw.com](http://www.katelynnlaw.com). The law firm includes Kate's partner Lori and two unpaid but hard working office dogs, Crockett and Diego.

Disclaimer: The information presented herein is for information only, and should not be construed to be formal legal advice nor the formation of an attorney - client relationship. A qualified legal professional must possess full knowledge of a client's particular facts

### THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE SCARY

Within the past year Lucas has gone from watching the same three Barney DVDs to asking about the three scariest movie villains- Jason Voorhees, Michael Myers, and Freddy Krueger. What progress we have made. We have gone from age 4 to age 14 overnight. Something good has come from this - we no longer feel like the purple dinosaur is the fourth member of our household. But Jason, Michael and Freddy? How do we deal with those three dudes? That's easy. We tell him they are bad guys and they do bad things. Lucas understands the concepts of bad and good. He tells us that when he sees Jason, he is going to say bad words to him, you know, swear words, the one's he knows of but knows not to say. We made a compromise. He can say those words when he comes face to face with Jason or Michael or Freddy Krueger.

What about Batman, Robin and the Incredible Hulk? Lucas has become entranced by them and the villains associated with them!?! He asks about them, if they are good guys or bad guys. Batman and Robin are definitely on our side- they are handsome, sexy, and wear tights that do not leave much to the imagination. They practically live together, too. They may not be gay, but they are kinda gay. Catwoman is a bad girl, but we love her especially as played by Eartha Kitt or Julie Newmar. And finally, the Hulk, well...he is a good guy but he is green and kinda gross...like the bodybuilders that just don't know when to stop. And, yes there is such a thing as too big...uh maybe.

Clearly, the movie monsters, villains, and heroes are easy to explain. Not so easy will be the ones in real life. There will be a lot of grey areas. Soldiers fighting for their country, doctors assisting with suicide, and people voting to take away the rights of the GLBT community. -- or the anti-gay protesters at the Allentown Prop 8 rally. Luckily, standing in front of those anti-gay protesters were the Silent Witnesses, who clearly are heroes.

### READ ABOUT RAINBOW FAMILIES CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR KIDS ON PAGES 1 AND 3



**LAURIONNE SOLOMON, VP OF PSU BERK'S SPEAKING AT A PRESENTATION BY PDN'S E.D. LIZ BRADBURY AT READING COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN NOVEMBER. RAINBOW ALLIANCE AT PENN STATE BERKS TO HOST "NOISE" CONCERT**

Featuring Staceyann Chin and Kin. April 16, 2009 - 8pm. Contact Laurionne Solomon: [les225@psu.edu](mailto:les225@psu.edu), 267-918-9355 for information.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT [WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG](http://WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG)



# FAITH PAGES by Adrian Shanker

## ADRIAN SHANKER'S SPEECH AT THE NOV 16 "RALLY AGAINST H8"

Chant: LOVENOT HATE... REPEAL PROP 8

We have a right to be angry.

To be pissed off.

To be frustrated.

To be insulted.

To want to scream and yell and be angry because our community's rights were voted against in the State of California.

We have a right to be angry because the State of Arkansas, on the same night, banned adoption rights for same-sex couples.

We have a right to be angry because in 37 states, including Pennsylvania, it is still legal to be fired for being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.

We have a right to be angry because in the ten years since the murder of Matthew Shepard, there have been no federal gains in comprehensive Hate Crimes laws.

We have a right to be angry because Separate has never been and never will be Equal.

We have a right to be angry - but anger is not productive.

Look how far we have come.

We have full marriage rights in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

We have three openly gay members of Congress

We have an anti-discrimination statement here in Allentown inclusive of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

We have fought through blatant discrimination, fear, hatred, murder. We survived, and we got stronger.

We are stronger because when Anita Bryant challenged our community's right to be teachers, we fought back.

We are stronger because when Harvey Milk was murdered, our community fought back.

We are stronger because when the Stonewall Riots broke out, we won.

We are stronger because when the AIDS epidemic fell upon our community, our community ACTED-UP.

We are stronger because when Matthew Shepard was brutally murdered, our community responded with rallies across the nation.

Our community has been beaten down - and we have gotten back up to fight back.

And that is just what we will do to REPEAL PROP 8!

So we can be angry about Prop 8.

But we need to be united.

We need to be united for the common cause of equality, for justice, for rights.

We have an amazing opportunity with President Obama to renew the fight for equality.

If we can channel even some of our anger about Prop 8 into a unified action, we can restore our rights.

We can pass the Employment Non Discrimination Act.

We can pass Hate Crimes legislation.

And we can make California repeal Prop 8.

YES WE DID elect Barack Obama and Joe Biden to be the most LGBT-affirming President and Vice President in US History.

AND YES WE CAN repeal Prop 8!

Chant:

LOVENOT HATE

REPEAL PROP 8

# VALLEY GAY PRESS

web site: [www.padiversity.org](http://www.padiversity.org)

Publisher, Managing Editor - Liz Bradbury

Publisher, Editor - Patricia Sullivan

Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Donnie

Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby,

Scott Laubner, Sue Sneringer, Adrian Shanker,

Kate Lynn, Phil Healing, AJA Lyons and others

**Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP)**

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**Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:**

**Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley**

1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800

**PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville** -- see meeting schedule

**Pride House** at Muhlenberg College, Allentown

**19th Street Theater** -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown

**Lehigh Valley Unitarian Universalist Church**

**(UUCLV)** -- 424 Center St., Bethlehem

**Haven GLBTA Youth Group** at UUCLV

**10 Libraries in Berks County, Allentown Library**

**Planned Parenthood NEPA** 48 S. 4th St. Reading

**Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County),**

**Reading Community Theatre -**

**11th & Buttonwood Sts Reading**

**Allen HS GSA, Reading HS GSA, Gov Mifflin HS GSA**

**Wilson High School GSA, Berks AIDS Network**

**Berks Mens Social Group, Kutztown Univ GLBT Center**

**Reading Area Community College Library**

**Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:**

**Diamondz Nightclub** -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

**Stonewall Bar** -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown

**Candida's** -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown

**Hava Java Coffee Shop** -- N. 19th St. Allentown

**Dreamscape Comics** -- 302 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

**The Woods Campground**

**Red Star Saloon** -- 11 S. 10th St. Reading

**Sanctuary Counseling** -- 515 Old Swede Road,

Douglasville

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**To Contact Valley Gay Press:**

Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: [info@padiversity.org](mailto:info@padiversity.org)

To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP. Some restrictions apply.





# MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Name/s \_\_\_\_\_  
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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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☐ Senior dues (over 65) \$5

☐ Individual dues \$20

☐ Family dues \$25

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN.  
Make checks payable to PDN.

Additional contribution  
☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ other

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**PO BOX 22902**  
**LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002**

BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

**PDN**  
**PO BOX 242**  
**MERTZTOWN, PA 19539**

**BECOME A MEMBER OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK  
TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS**

## CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

VGP is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and organizations to get their information to hundreds of people in the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. If you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network (info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about your group.



**TO PAY YOUR PDN  
DUES ON LINE!**  
**JUST GO TO "MEMBERSHIP" AT  
WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG  
IT'S EASY, IT'S SECURE.**

**PLEASE PAY YOUR  
PA DIVERSITY NETWORK  
2009 MEMBERSHIP DUES  
OF JUST \$20 / \$25  
PLEASE SUPPORT PDN BY  
PAYING YOUR DUES NOW**

Membership to PA Diversity Network, which brings you a subscription to the Valley Gay Press, is just \$20 for an individual membership and \$25 for a family membership.

PA Diversity Network is a not-for-profit volunteer driven organization which supports the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. PDN's projects include: The Valley Gay Press, The GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web Site, the PDN Photo Project -- 300 Same-sex Couples and Rainbow Families. PDN also fights individual instances of discrimination on a case by case basis, does presentations to organizations, educational institutions and businesses on GLBT issues, and brings the community entertaining and fun activities like special concert events, art shows, community action opportunities, Bingo, and participation with other organizations.

PDN exists and functions financially in great part on contributions and memberships from people like you. Please become a 2009 member of PDN and further support PDN with a contribution. PDN is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization.

**CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG**





## LIZ OUT LOUD

By Liz Bradbury

### "LIZ'S SPEECH AT THE 'FIGHT THE H8' RALLY ON NOV 16 (EDITED FOR LENGTH)"

What are we here for today? To Protest the passage of Proposition 8 and the three other hateful anti-gay amendments that passed in Florida, Arizona, and Arkansas. To speak out for our equal marriage rights, and to organize to fight and overturn anti-equality laws. But as we do this we must remember that...first and foremost, we of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and allied community are NOT a community of divisiveness-- within our community all races and religions are welcome.

Mormons, are NOT our enemy, other minority groups and churches are not our enemy. Ignorance is our enemy. Ignorance towards the queer community is the enemy.

Those who might carry a sign or harbor the thought that blaming churches or other minorities will somehow restore our lost or banned equal rights.... are dangerously wrong. If you do that, you fall right into the hands of the far right that wants us to waste our time, infighting.

Don't blame people, blame ignorance. The supporters of Proposition 8, and all those anti-gay amendments that passed on election day, used the media to present nothing more than lies and misinformation to get voters to vote yes. Now we must turn that around.

This is a rallying point, a wake up call to every GLBTA person to come out, to take a stand, to explain, to teach, to educate on what this issue is about and how it does nothing more than rob civil rights from real people and hurt real families.

We must use truth to make the changes we need for full equality. It is always the role of the informed to educate. So how do we do that?

First: You need to come out. And not just to a few close friends. Come out to everybody. The holidays are here. You'll be with your family, your old friends, your neighbors, your coworkers...come out to them, all of them... you know who I mean ...and then educate them. Learn about this issue so you can explain it.

The entirety of Proposition 8's text to be added to the constitution was: "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." Nothing about educating children in schools about gay marriage, nothing about forcing churches to marry anyone they didn't want to, and that short sentence didn't explain how specifically Prop 8 would remove the hundreds of rights that come from legal marriage, from a minority group you belong to.

Explain how voting to take away the rights of a minority group is just about the most un-American thing that can be done. Explain that in this country, the majority should never vote on the rights of the minority!!!

OK, so you're going to come out to everybody and you're going to educate everybody and the next thing you have to do is join up. Join PA Diversity Network - which is fighting for your rights every day - and join and support other GLBT national groups and local organizations that are fighting for your rights. And joining doesn't just mean going to a party or a festival. It means paying your dues and volunteering your time.

Proposition 8 was a set back, which we will overturn. A set back can galvanize us and make us stronger. But we can't sit idly by and wait for other people to do the work.

Civil Rights never come easy, but as sure as an African American man who believes gay people should have equal rights can become president of the United States!!!! know in your heart we will achieve that equality!!!!!!!

**SEE PADIVERSITY.ORG FOR RALLY PHOTOS AND VIDEO**

## 11 TRISH'S COLUMN

By Patricia Sullivan

### MARRIAGEV. MARRIAGE



The first law against interracial marriage was passed in the colonies in Maryland in 1664 and not seriously challenged until the 1830's when abolitionists argued that (anti) miscegenation (mixing of races) laws contradicted the principle of American equality.

The arguments used to justify miscegenation laws included: "marriage belongs under the control of the states", "it is illicit sex", "contrary to God's will" and "unnatural". Because miscegenation laws punished both the black and white partners to an interracial marriage, they were determined to affect blacks and whites "equally."

The ACLU fought the laws in the 1900's, but significant legal victories didn't occur until groups organized constitutional challenges. The first came from the Catholic Interracial Council who argued the laws were a violation of the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom. In 1948, the California Supreme Court rejected the argument that miscegenation laws equally applied to all races. According to Justice Roger Traynor, "A member of any of these races may find himself barred by law from marrying the person of his choice and that person to him may be irreplaceable." "The right to marry is the right of individuals, not of racial groups."

In the 50's, the ACLU used prevailing science to argue that interracial sex and marriage was natural. They also argued that the laws did nothing but label otherwise long-term committed relationships as illicit sex rather than marriage.

In 1967, in *Loving v. Virginia*, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that limiting the right to marry based upon racial classification violated the Equal Protection Clause. At that time a Gallup Poll showed 72% of Americans opposed interracial marriage.

While gay men and lesbians still lack marriage equality, the climate is not the same as that for interracial couples in the 30's when the law carried criminal penalties, whites overwhelmingly condemned interracial marriage, and a lynching could the result from just the inference of interracial sex. That being said, the lack of equality in marriage for same-sex couples is as indefensible as that lack of equality was in interracial marriage.

Our progress has been greatly facilitated by the victories of those who fought for racial equality. While marriage equality can't come soon enough for me, consider the following: When the US Supreme Court made its first ruling on a gay issue in 1957, I was only 12 years old. The Court ruled homosexual publications were protected by the 1st Amendment and were not intrinsically obscene. Our "organized" civil rights movement had its beginnings in the 60's and the first marriage case was lost in Minnesota in 1972. In 1982 the first state employment protections were passed and now 17 states protect employment rights based on sexual orientation and thirteen of those include protection for gender identity.

In the 1990's the ban on homosexual immigration ended, marriage was legal for one day in Hawaii then taken away by a state constitutional amendment. DOMA passed nationally and in 39 individual states. But, the Supreme Court refused to allow Colorado to amend its constitution to prevent any city, town or county from taking actions that would protect us from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The Supreme Court also ruled that sexual harassment laws applied to parties of the same-sex and Vermont got civil unions.

Since 2000: *Bowers v. Hardwick* invalidated laws intended to outlaw gay sex. Hawaii, Oregon, Maine, Washington, DC and Maryland granted domestic partnerships. New Jersey and New Hampshire passed civil unions. Massachusetts and Connecticut approved civil marriage. New York and Rhode Island now recognize marriages performed elsewhere. While the fate of California is currently unknown, marriage equality in the US is ultimately inevitable.



# POP QUIZ 12

1. Barack Obama said during the campaign that his daughter's favorite TV show was:  
A. Will & Grace B. Hannah Montana C. Dora the Explorer D. Sponge Bob
2. T/F: There was a Sponge Bob balloon in the NYC Thanksgiving Day Parade.
3. What favorite Thanksgiving Day movie includes the line: So be gay, Bo Peep?
4. In that movie, who says about Barnaby, that they aren't as good friends since they got married?  
A. Stannie Dum B. Ollie Dee C. Bo Peep D. Mother Goose
5. The annual TG parade in NYC has taken place \_\_\_ times. A. 22 B. 58 C. 82 D. 122
6. This year the parade included a Keith Haring Balloon in the shape of:
7. Keith Haring was originally from what Berks County municipality?
8. Which "Iron Chef" just came out?
9. Which out lesbian has her own MSNBC news show, and has been featured in Newsweek and on the front of the Advocate.
10. Stand-up comic and sitcom co-star \_\_\_ just came out during a public speech condemning Proposition 8 and calling for efforts toward equal marriage rights for every US state.

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley & Berks County if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network

GLBT Intoline

PA-GALA

Rainbow Families

Valley Gay Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL at Agers

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLSN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

LV Turning Point

Muhlenberg Theater Association

LV Crime Victims Council Touchstone Theater

Congregation Am Rakshan

LV Progressive Students Alliance

The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown

United Friends School Quakertown

LV Transsexual Coalition

Lehigh Valley Transmen

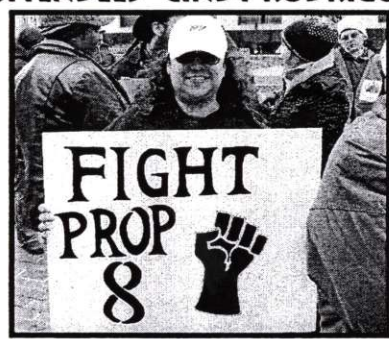
GLEF (Gay & Lesbian Episcopalians & Friends)

Old Allentown Preservation Association

The Center for Animal Health and Welfare

WDIY

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH ONE OF 200 "RALLY TO FIGHT H8" ATTENDEES - CINDY RODRIGUEZ



**PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK  
THANKS THE UNITED WAY AND  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN THE  
UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN WHO  
CHOSE PDN FOR THEIR  
DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS!!!**

## VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW REVIEW BY A'JA LYONS

**"Coffee Will Make You Black"**

by April Sinclair, Harper Paperbacks

"Mama, are you a virgin?" preteen Jean "Stevie" Stevenson asks her mother, after a boy in her sixth grade class sends her a note asking her the same thing.

Stevie is a young Black woman residing in the South Side of Chicago, who comes into her own during the Civil Rights era and Black Power Movement. The title, "Coffee Will Make You Black," was something African American elders said to children to dissuade them from heavy coffee drinking. For some of these older people, dark skin was considered a negative thing. Stevie, with her medium brown skin and medium length hair is labeled cute, but not beautiful.

Stevie the bookworm enjoys sports but she longs to fit in with the cool crowd, so she tries to conform. She also feels pressure from her fervently religious, self-hating, constantly deprecating mother who encourages Stevie to bleach her skin and to not associate with her best friend, whom the mother feels is a bad influence.

As Stevie enters high school and becomes her own person, she begins to disregard the pressure from her mother and friends. She wears an afro hairstyle rather than straightening her hair. The death of Dr. Martin Luther King and the roaring Civil Rights Movement changes the way Stevie sees herself. Stevie enters a relationship with a boy on the basketball team in her sophomore year, but during her junior year questions not only the relationship, but her sexuality when she realizes that she wishes for more than friendship with the school nurse, Ms. Horn.

Chicago born author April Sinclair has written an astonishing and inimitable coming of age debut novel about a young character's preteen-through-high school years during the racially charged mid sixties and early seventies. This and Sinclair's second novel, "Ain't Gonna Be the Same Fool Twice" which follows Stevie to college, are particularly good reads for young people dealing with coming of age issues.

### QUOTE #1

"I believe one day a "ban on gay marriage" will sound totally ridiculous. In the meantime, I will continue to speak out for equality for all of us." -Ellen Degeneres on the passage of Proposition 8

### QUOTE #2

"No civil-rights issue has ever been completed overnight. If examined and managed correctly, we will win the next round. California is not a failure: It is the closest we have come yet to the prize, which is just out of reach." -- Mark Segal of the Phil. Gay News on the passage of Prop 8.

### QUOTE #3

"Think of what the millions of dollars poured into California's Prop 8 effort could have done to help the homeless, the working poor, the people suffering in the imploding economy. Instead, here we see professed people of faith turning a blind eye to the less fortunate to focus on obliterating the separation of church and state using bigotry. If it's bad PR for the churches, they brought it upon themselves." -- Blogger Pam Spalding against the passage of Prop 8

### QUOTE #4

"Quote me anything from your religious leader or book of choice telling you to stand against this. And then tell me how you can believe both that statement and another statement, another one which reads only "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." - from Keith Olbermann's rant in favor of same-sex marriage